

*Iris Versicolor* —

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*termed, the Blue Flag, or Flag Lily, is*

# **Iris Versicolor**

*or marshy situation — On both the*  
*Pennsylvania* Respectfully submitted to the

*Faculty of the*  
**Homoeopathic**

*growing near the*  
*border of swamps, or in the neighborhood*  
**Medical College**

*of the*  
**of Pennsylvania.**

*perennial*  
*On the 21st. of January*

*being for*  
*One thousand, eight hundred, and fifty-two.*

*extended through*  
*By, Jos. G. Rowland,*  
*of Illinois —*



# Iris Versicolor

Spencer

The Iris Versicolor or as it is commonly termed, the Blue Flag, or Flag Lily, is indigenous to many parts of the United States, and is found universally in damp or marshy situations - On both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey, shores of the Delaware river, it may be found, growing in great abundance, near the borders of swamps, or in the neighborhood of creeks, which empty into that stream -

The Root of the Versicolor is of a fleshy, fibrous nature, and is perennial, the season of flowering being June, though it is frequently extended through the ensuing month -



It belongs to the Class Triandria,  
Order, Monogynia - and to the  
Natural orders, Eusata, of Linneus, and  
Irides of Gussieu - has three valves,  
and is divided into three cells -

The Stem is two to three feet  
high, round on one side, somewhat  
acute on the other - and frequently  
branching -

¶ Leaves - ensiform and embracing the  
stem, like a sheath -

¶ Flowers, two, to six, in number, the  
petals being blue or purple on their  
borders, and variegated on the centre  
and claw, with white, green, and yellow.  
The outer petals are spatulate; the  
inner, varying in shape from spat-  
ulate, to lanceolate, usually paler



than the outer, and entire, or  
 emarginate. The inner petals are erect.

¶ The Styles, short and concealed.

¶ The Capsule, ovate - has three valves,  
 and is divided into three cells -  
 when mature is triangularly-oblong  
 with obtuse angles, and contains  
 numerous flat seeds - as a cathartic

and emetic, and is highly spoken of by some.  
 ¶ Peduncles, various lengths, - flattened  
 on the inside - direction its classification

¶ Pedicates - The dose is from 10 to 20 grains.

¶ Stigmas, petaloid, purple, and  
 bifid at the extremity -

profusion by the Indians, who, it is said, value  
 it as one of their most powerful medicines -  
 Indeed so important a place does it hold in  
 their estimation that a traveller among the



# The root is alone used in the medicinal preparation - The expressed juice has a nauseous acid taste - which it imparts to water, but more strongly to alcohol -

In allopathic practice it has been considered useful in dropsical affections, on account of its power as a diuretic - but it is more especially mentioned in the books as a cathartic and emetic, and is highly spoken of by some physicians for the promptness and certainty of its action in the direction its classification indicates - The dose is from 10 to 20 grains -.

It is probable that its employment as a remedial agent, was first suggested to the profession by the Indians, who, it is said, value it as one of their most powerful medicines - Indeed so important a place does it hold in their estimation that a traveller among the



tribes in Georgia and Florida, mentions having seen an artificial pond in almost every village, covered with a luxuriant growth of the Iris, and which was constructed especially for its cultivation —

¶ In times of prevailing sickness they would then partake freely of a decoction of the root, which together with prayer and fasting they considered an efficient guard against the attack of the epidemic —

*for taking the 3rd*  
*dilution an uneasy feeling was experienced*

¶ *the scrobiculus cordis, together with rumbling*

The following provings, with one or two exceptions, were made from the tincture prepared in the customary manner; the attenuations used were made on the decimal plan — No. 1, used the 3rd, & 1st dilutions — and the mother tincture — No. 2 the same — No. 3, same & No. 4, the 1st trituration —

*Not safe*



I will first present the symptoms of each individual prover, copied verbatim from the reports, and afterward, a combination of all the symptoms, in a systematic arrangement.

The symptoms are recorded in the order of their occurrence, in each case —

### No. 1.

About fifteen minutes after taking the 3rd dilution, an uneasy feeling was experienced in the scrobiculus cordis, together with rumbling in lower part of abdomen — these symptoms increase until the lower part of sternum seems protruded — Nausea & eructations of wind —

Dull pain in right parietal protuberance, which increases steadily until it becomes a hammering pain, and so much aggravated by motion



1-  
that for the moment, it appears unbearable -  
but by continuing movement, it gradually  
abates, returning again when at rest -

Rheumatic pain in right shoulder, worse on  
motion - especially by raising the arm

A disposition to feel displeased with every-thing  
and every-body, which gives place to a feeling  
of liveliness and activity -

¶ Immediately after taking first dilution, sneezing.  
Nausea and slight vomiting of a watery and  
extremely sour fluid -

¶ About 2 hrs. after, severe stitch in inferior part of  
occiput, more on the right, than left side -

¶ Severe rheumatic pain, in the whole right  
arm and right knee-joint, worse on  
motion, and continuing when at rest -  
Acute and extremely severe bores pain in  
right parietal protuberance, causing him



to bend down his head -

¶ Pain in left side, as though the ribs were pressing hard upon the lower portion of the lung - Unable to take a long breath for the pain in the left lung - which was of a sticking and cutting character -

A short, dry cough, excited by tickling in the larynx - Slight toothache, in a warm room -

Headache, much aggravated by coughing -

Rumbling and uneasiness in the stomach, accompanied by diarrhoea, with little pain -

Stools lumpy, brown, and very offensive -

Sweat over the whole body, particularly in the groin - Dry cracked lips -

A sharp, cutting pain in the urethra, when commencing to urinate -

After taking medicine for five days, seven small vesicles appeared on the right wrist



which gradually formed into pustules,  
 having a depression in the centre - these  
 dried up in one night, leaving crusts,  
 which remained nine days before disappearing -  
 (The prover thinks it proper to state, he had been  
 attending a severe case of small-pox.)

Sensation of fullness of head - Head feels  
 Half an hour after taking nearly half an ounce  
 of the mother tincture, a feeling of rawness in  
 the throat - General languor - ill-humor -  
 Inability to fix the attention on any subject -  
 when writing, mind will wander to other things.  
 Diarrhoea, with colic - Nausea and vomiting  
 of a thin watery fluid, of an exceedingly  
 sour taste - constant nausea for more than  
 an hour, and vomiting several times -  
 Diarrhoea, with rumbling and cutting in  
 the lower part of the abdomen -



Heat over the whole body - then chilliness,  
with cold hands and feet -

Head feels very heavy, the eyes dull, with  
pain directly over the left superciliary ridge -

Severe burning pain in the internal canthus  
of right eye, the eye filling with tears

Sensation of fullness of head - Head feels  
hot and face flushed -

Whenever attempting to laugh, a sensation  
as though a band were drawn tightly around  
the forehead, prevents -

The day after taking mother tincture - Feeling  
of sleepiness with great chilliness, only feeling  
at all comfortable when near a very hot  
fire, and even then, cold, chilly sensations are  
felt down the back -

Violent tearing pain in right hip-joint, knee



and shoulders, very severe indeed; the most severe only lasting about 2 or 3 minutes - Vomiting of the sour matter, before-mentioned - and great chilliness over the whole body during the night, although abundantly covered -

Weakness, despondency - thinks he is going to be very sick - then a disposition to laugh at his fears, which, however, soon return -

Dreams of suffocation and fire -

Cutting and sticking in the urethra, when making water, with coldness and itching over the genitals, the itching being worse on scratching -

Six dysenteric stools during the night, with pain and rumbling in the lower part of the abdomen; also great lassitude - After these symptoms have abated there remains a sore-throat and slight headache -



## No. 2 ~

1. Feeling of weakness and weariness in the lower part of the back - Pain, of a dull, aching character, in right hypochondria, when walking - Pains in right, then in left knee, when walking - Feeling of weariness in back for several days - Sharp pain near outer-side of left arm, when moving it - Swelling of gums on the inner surface of left side of lower jaw, under the molar teeth - Pain in left hip-joint, when walking - Redness of the conjunctiva as if from cold - For a day or two, much fetid flatulence - pain in abdomen, which is relieved by discharge of flatus -

2. Sharp pain in first joint of great toe of right side, when walking, renewed frequently during the day - Pain in the last joint of middle finger of left hand - A number of shooting, shifting and momentary pains



in the phalangeal and metacarpo-phalangeal articulations — All of these pains coming on more during the evening; and being worse on motion — Boils on back, face & hands.

Pain along posterior part of crista ilii of the right side — Urine more copious —

The pain in first joint of great toe occurs, during walking, for a number of days —

Pain in left thigh — Pulse accelerated —

3. — After increasing doses more frequently renewed,

Empty eructations & pain in the stomach — Unusual restlessness during the night, sleep disturbed by startings — Aching pain in the stomach before breakfast —

Pains, tense and sticking in right shoulder during motion, particularly on raising the arm — (This symptom set in soon after commencing the proving, continued throughout,



and was observed five or six weeks after discontinuing the medicine -).

Pains in the metacarpal joints of both hands, muscles, of right arm, and pectoralis major, mostly during motion, and in the evening. - Woke two hours earlier than usual, with no disposition to renew sleep -

Pain in bowels, going off by discharge of flatus - Feeling of a greasy coating over mouth and tongue, early in the morning - Aching pain in the stomach after drinking cold water - Pains through the day in most all of the limbs - Urine increased in quantity -

Ⓐ Tensive, momentary, and constantly recurring pains in all the joints, but mostly the smaller which shift rapidly about - mostly in the evening; - that is, from supper, to bed-time - Pain in abdomen above crista ilii, both sides -



After breakfast, a diarrhaic stool, with  
subsequent pain in epigastrium ~

In writing, pains in phalanges of <sup>4th</sup> <sup>5th</sup> right hand  
and in the end of index finger of same hand.

(Observed several weeks after proving.) ~

Pain in <sup>4th</sup> left thigh ~ Shooting, sticking pain  
in the <sup>4th</sup> <sup>5th</sup> right foot - Continuous sharp pain  
along the left side of first phalanx of  
middle finger of <sup>4th</sup> <sup>5th</sup> right hand ~

Sharp pain in ends of the middle fingers  
of <sup>4th</sup> <sup>5th</sup> left hand, succeeded instantly, by a  
similar pain in the axilla of same side -  
(occurring frequently during about 5 minutes.) ~

Sudden diarrhaic stool after supper ~

Sharp, cutting pain, frequent, in the metacarpo-  
phalangeal articulation of thumb of <sup>4th</sup> <sup>5th</sup> right hand -

Aged, irritable mood - disposed to find fault -

(Proving No 2 was made by the same individual, at 3 different periods ~)



## No. 3 -

Pulse somewhat accelerated - Headache for two days - The third day, he was seized with a peculiar headache - the pain shot, as he describes it, like <sup>an electric shock</sup> a streak of lightning, from the <sup>in in</sup> right temple, to the left part of occiput -, and continued about half an hour - Headache, with great depression of spirits and general debility -

Crampy pains in right lumbar region - in the evening, continuing several hours, and causing a sweat to break out - Woke up unusually early, with dry mouth, & general depression -

Headache, occurring irregularly during several days - Observed a pimple on middle finger of left hand - the next day the inflammation was extended over the hand - the day after it became more violent, and occasioned great pain, and was afterward opened to obtain relief - no pus was found, but it was subsequently formed, and



discharged through the opening, which penetrated as far as the bone - a fungous growth, meanwhile, having taken place, around the edges - pain extended from this hand up the arm -

There was much swelling and pain<sup>\*</sup> in the part affected, which had much the appearance of a malignant boil - There was a disposition to a similar formation on the index finger, but the inflammation subsided after a time, and finally disappeared -

During the proving, the urine was very copious and had a strongly disagreeable odor -

Restlessness for five nights in succession -

Headache with pain in the bowels -

Sickness of stomach, in the evening, obliging him to lie down - Pain in left side of chest -

<sup>\*</sup>The pain in the finger was accompanied by sweat, although the weather was very cold -



## No. 4.

Colicky pains, during the evening and night, obliging him to bend forward for relief, and attended with loss of appetite and great restlessness during the night - this colic continued the next day, but was immediately relieved by a dose of *nux. vomica* -

No appetite, next day - Restless at night, with troublesome dreams -

Several pimples on lower extremities, and other parts of the body, like mosquito bites - Constipation several days -

Languid and feverish in the afternoon - no disposition to mental or physical exercise -

Next day, flushed face, fever, drowsiness, and loss of appetite - weakness and languor, - with rumbling in the bowels - the morning after, a thin, watery diarrhea, continuing through the day - Debility and loss of appetite - Diarrhaic stools



the next day - succeeded by pain in the umbilical region - Colic in the afternoon, ceasing at night -

## Summary.

### Mind and Disposition.

Despondency - Low spirits - Easily vexed, and put out of humor - Afraid he is going to be very sick, and afterwards laughs at his fears, which soon return - succeeded by liveliness and activity -

### Head -

Dull pain in right parietal prominence, becoming afterward a hammering pain, violently aggravated by motion, which if continued relieves it; but it soon returns, when at rest - Severe stitch in lower part of occiput, more on the right side -



Extremely severe boring pain in the right parietal protuberance, causing him to bend the head down - Headache aggravated by coughing - Sensation of fullness in the head - Head and face feel hot - When attempting to laugh, sensation of constriction around forehead - Head feels heavy - Lancinating pain in outer corner of right eyebrow - Pain shooting from right temple to left part of occiput, compared to <sup>an electric shock</sup> ~~a streak of lightning~~

### Eyes -

Redness of conjunctiva as if from cold - The eyes feel dull with pain over left superciliary ridge - Severe burning pain in internal canthus with effusion of tears -

### Mouth -

Greasy feeling over tongue and gums, on rising in the morning - Feeling of rawness in the mouth -



Slight soreness of throat - Dry mouth - Slight toothache in a warm room - Dry cracked lips - Swelling and soreness of gums, inner part, below molar teeth of left side -

Taste and Appetite -

Bitter taste - also foul - Loss of appetite -

Gastric Symptoms -

Nausea and empty eructations - Nausea and vomiting of a watery and extremely sour fluid - Constant nausea and vomiting, during an hour - Aching in stomach before breakfast and on drinking cold water - Sickness of stomach obliging him to lie down -

Hypochondria and Abdomen -

Uneasy feeling in scrobiculus cordis - Rumbling in lower part of abdomen - Lower part of sternum seems protruded - Colic -



Cutting pain in lower part of abdomen -  
 Pain in abdomen relieved by discharge of flatus -  
 Pain in right hypochondria, worse on motion -  
 Pain along origin of glutens maximus, of  
 right side - Pain in abdomen above crista  
 ilii, on both sides, first on right -  
 Crampy pains in right lumbar region -  
 Colic, oblying him to bend forward for relief -  
 Fetid flatulence -

### Stool -

Diarrhoea, with slight pain, accompanied by  
 rumbling and uneasiness in stomach -  
 Stools, lumpy, brown and very offensive -  
 Diarrhoea with colicky pains - Diarrhoea  
 with rumbling and cutting in lower part  
 of abdomen - Six dysenteric stools at night  
 with rumbling and pain in abdomen, and  
 great lassitude - Sudden liquid evacuation



after eating supper - Constipation, for  
 sometime succeeded by thin, watery diarrhoea -

Genital and Urinary organs -

A sharp cutting pain in urethra, when  
 beginning to urinate - Coldness and itching  
 of genitals, made worse by scratching -  
 Urine copious - strong, disagreeable smell  
 to the urine - Cutting & sticking in urethra, when urinating

Upper Extremities -

A sharp tensile pain in right shoulder, worse  
 on motion, especially by raising the arm - and  
 continuing a long time - this pain occurs most  
 in the evening - Severe pains, shooting, momentary  
 and shifting rapidly about, in the phalangeal  
 and metacarpo-phalangeal articulations, and  
 also in the sides and ends of fingers, of  
 both hands - These pains more in the evening  
 Sharp pain in end of middle fingers of left hand



Succeeded instantly by a similar pain in  
axilla of same side - Pains in phalanges  
when writing -

### Lower Extremities -

Pain in right knee joint, worse on motion -  
Violent tearing pain in right hip and knee  
joints, - Sharp pains, similar to those  
in hand in right hip, right and left knee  
joints, & in right foot, especially in the first  
joint of great toe, all worse on motion -

### Larynx and Chest -

Short dry cough, excited by tickling in the  
larynx - Pain in the left side as though  
the ribs were pressing against the lung -  
Unable to take a long breath for the pain in  
the left chest -, which was of a cutting  
and sticking character -

Pain in left part of the chest -

~~old~~

## Sleep ~

Feeling of drowsiness - Sleepiness, with chills -

Unusual restlessness during the night

Waking much earlier than usual ~

Startings during sleep - Restless every night -

Dreams of suffocation, and fire ~

## Fever &c ~

Sweat from violent pain in finger (No. 3) ~

Sweat over the whole body, but particularly in the groin - Heat over the whole body,

followed by chills, with cold hands and feet -

Desire to be close to the fire, and even then -

chills along the back ~ Chills over the whole body at night, although abundantly

covered - Feverish, during pains in abdomen (No. 4)

Pulse accelerated ~



## Skin -

Several vesicles on <sup>the</sup> right wrist, gradually forming into pustules, which dried up in one night, leaving crusts, which remained nine days (No. 3)

Malignant sore, resembling a boil, on middle finger of left hand, forming a cavity reaching to the bone - (see No. 3) -

Pimples resembling mosquito bites on body and extremities - (no)

Small boils on the back, face and hands -

## General Symptoms -

General debility - feeling of weakness and weariness -

## The Characteristic Peculiarities -

The symptoms appear mostly in the evening, and at night - Pains aggravated on motion -

Right side most affected -



It will be seen, by an examination of the above provings, and a comparison of them with the Clinical Remarks of Dr. Kitchen, published in the North American Journal of Homoeopathy, for November 1857, how conclusively they substantiate the truth of our great homoeopathic law -

*Similia* Here we find a striking example of proof 'a posteriori', which can not fail to impress itself upon the enquirer into the merits of our system -

When it is remembered that, the notice of Iris versicolor above referred to, was written with but little knowledge of any of its pathogenetic effects; certainly with none, of its' peculiar action, and when we see these effects, as subsequently manifested on the healthy, not only



ranging themselves in the same line of diseases as treated of in the essay, but even the exact symptoms corresponding in many particulars, the honest and unprejudiced mind cannot but consider it an absolute verification, of the certainty and accuracy, with which the law of 'Similia-' may be applied - No less, does it denote the correctness of the author's observation of the characters of disease, detailed in his valuable contribution -

There are certainly, however, other affections, beside those treated of in the remarks of Dr. Hitchen, to which the Iris is suitable, and, although it would scarcely be proper in one, who has had but little experience with the manifestations

Opinion



of disease, to attempt an inference of the special applicability of a remedy from an incomplete pathogenesis, yet there is one important point in the foregoing proving whose suggestion is so evident, that it cannot be overlooked - I refer to the tearing, shooting and rapidly shifting pains in joints and extremities, especially the smaller joints, but more particularly in the right shoulder - which are so prominent in No. 2, and of which the writer had ample experience; these symptoms will lead us to consider the probable usefulness of Iris vers. in Rheumatism, located in similar situations, especially if occurring more in the evening, and if aggravated by motion -

There are other deductions, which such a one desires more earnestly, than he who has made the first endeavour -



possibly might be allowable, but they would be offered with much hesitation on account of the unavoidable insufficiency of material and detail which is manifest in the record of symptoms -

The writer would then say, in conclusion, that he does not offer the above provings as by any means a complete pathogenesis, but merely, what with limited opportunities and means for investigation, he has been able to collect - It is, no doubt, reserved for others, who have sufficient time to devote their undivided attention to it, to give this article, which, it is evident, will occupy an important place in our *Materia Medica*, an ample and detailed proving - That it is worthy such a trial no one will deny, and that it will receive such, no one desires more earnestly, than he who has made the first endeavor -